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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 HUD-01 PRS-01
PA-01 CU-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00
/066 W
----------091723 042032Z /72
O 041820Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5033
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1735

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GY, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUP SEEKS MEETING
WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG

SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL OF INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS REPORTEDLY HAVE SENT A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG REQUESTING A MEETING TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUYANA. THE COUNCIL IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF EAST INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN GUYANA. IT IS CONSERVATIVE AND RACIST-ORIENTED. IT RECENTLY OPPOSED GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL THAT PUBLIC HOUSING SHOULD BE RACIALLY INTEGRATED AND FAVORS PARTITION OF GUYANA. LEADERS OF THE GROUP, ALONG WITH PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, ARE WIDELY BELIEVED BY PUBLIC IN GUYANA TO HAVE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM CIA IN OUSTING CHEDDI JAGAN FROM POWER IN 1964. BURNHAM HAS RETAINED SUSPICIONS THAT THE COUNCIL'S LEADERS CONTINUE TO HAVE CIA TIES.
END SUMMARY.

1. POLITICAL REPORTER FOR GUYANA CHRONICLE CALLED PAO AUGUST 3 TO INQUIRE CONCERNING A REPORT THAT THE GUYANA COUNCIL OF INDIAN ORGANISATIONS (GCIO) HAD WRITTEN A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG REQUESTING A
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MEETING WITH HIM. PAO RESPONDED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE LETTER OR OF SUCH A REQUEST AND THAT HE HAD NO COMMENT ON THE MATTER.

2. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED GUYANA CHRONICLE HAD PAGE 5 ARTICLE AUGUST 4 WITH CAPTION "ANTI-GOVERNMENT BODY SEEKS TO MEET ANDREW YOUNG." THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE INDICATES

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THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNCIL OF INDIAN ORGANISATIONS TELEPHONED THE NEWSPAPER SAYING HE HAD WRITTEN TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG SEEKING AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM TO "CORRECT THE IMPRESSION ABOUT THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUYANA GIVEN BY US UNDER SECRETARY PHILIP HABIB." THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE WAS FURTHER QUOTED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ASSISTANCE WOULD BE SOUGHT IN THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE COUNTRY. IT WELCOMED THE VISIT AND COMPLIMENTED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS "STRONG STAND AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE US EMBASSY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT.

3. THE COUNCIL LABELS THE GOVERNMENT AS BEING "COMMUNIST" AND COMPLAINS THAT 1973 ELECTIONS WERE RIGGED. IT ALSO ALLEGES THAT THE GOG PRACTICES CULTURAL AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. ODDLY--FROM AN AMERICAN STANDPOINT--THEIR MOST RECENT PUBLIC STAND HAS BEEN AGAINST GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INTEGRATE PUBLIC HOUSING. THE COUNCIL ARGUES THAT FOR EAST INDIANS TO LIVE WITH BLACKS IN INTEGRATED PUBLIC HOUSING WOULD BE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM. THE COUNCIL ALSO WANTS THE PARTITION OF GUYANA INTO TWO COUNTRIES--ONE EAST INDIAN AND THE OTHER COMPOSED OF BLACK PEOPLE.

4. COMMENT: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL HAVE NOT
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APPROACHED THE EMBASSY FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG. THE PUBLIC MANNER IN WHICH THE COUNCIL IS HANDLING THIS MATTER MAY INDICATE IT INTENDS TO EXPLOIT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

5. THE COUNCIL OF INDIAN ORGANISATIONS IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF EAST INDIAN GROUPS WHICH OPPOSE THE GOG. IT IS THE MOST CONSERVATIVE OF THESE GROUPS AND FOR YEARS SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH THE US EMBASSY. DURING THE CAMPAIGN TO OUST THE JAGAN GOVERNMENT IN THE EARLY 1960'S, THE LEADERS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE OPPOSITION LEADER BURNHAM COLLABORATED WITH EACH OTHER AND BOTH REPORTEDLY HAD TIES WITH AND SUPPORT FROM THE CIA IN THIS EFFORT. BURNHAM IS TRYING TO ESCAPE THIS SHADOW FROM HIS PAST, BUT THE COUNCIL'S LEADERS REPORTEDLY CONTINUE TO TELL THEIR SUPPORTERS THAT THEY HAVE COVERT BACKING FROM US INTELLIGENCE. BURNHAM'S AWARENESS OF THESE CLAIMS HAS FED HIS SUSPICIONS OF THE US. BECAUSE THE COUNCIL REPRESENTS A RELATIVELY SMALL PORTION OF EAST INDIANS AND BECAUSE WE CONSIDER IT TO BE A RACIST AND ULTRA-RIGHTIST ORGANIZATION, THE EMBASSY HAS TRIED TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE EMBRACE

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OF ITS LEADERS DURING THE PAST YEAR.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 1711988
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORT THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUP SEEKS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL OF INDIAN
TAGS: PINT, OVIP, SHUM, GY, (YOUNG, ANDREW J)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17adfc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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